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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

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STATEMENT ON WORLD AIDS DAY

More than 3 million Ethiopians are afflicted by the AIDS and virus and hundreds of thousands have died from the malady over the years. As the world observes AIDS Day, it behoves on the EPRP to clearly point out that the responsibility of the group in power in Addis Ababa is big and undeniable.

The EPRDF regime practically dismantled the anti Aids institution set up prior to 1991 and its bankrupt policies led to the overall deterioration of the health services all over the country. The social climate favoured by the regime and the poverty that has ruined the country have led to the spread of prostitution with underage girls involved in the trade and the special bars frequented by the members of the ruling elite. The regime has also benefited from the sex tourism that remains unmentioned officially but is flourishing. International assistance to victims of AIDS and prevention projects has been embezzled by none other than Azeb Mesfin, the wife of Meles Zenawi himself. She heads the anti AIDS body and as corrupt as she is she has focused on diverting the money given by international donors to help combat AIDS in Ethiopia. The regime pays lip service to the campaign to fight AIDS by making people aware and taking health and other preventive measures without actually taking any effective measure.

The AIDS virus affects mostly women and mainly young adults and combined with the malaria epidemic it has a devastating effect on the labor force and the future of the country. Rampant poverty and the resulting desperation, the regime controlled sell of drugs have also aggravated the problem with rape and sexual abuse on the rise. This being the sad state of affairs, the EPRP not only condemns the irresponsible regime but has also continued to call on the Ethiopian people to take measures to protect themselves from the deadly virus.

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